

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention describes an automatic dialer for determining relative rankings of network access numbers from within a group of available network access numbers known as an available NAN list, and for facilitating selection of a network access number to use for a connection from a client device to a data network. Various factors are considered in determining the rankings of the network access numbers. The factors include connection costs, quality of connection.

1. A method for determining relative rankings of network access numbers from within a group of available network access numbers known as an available NAN list, and for facilitating selection of a network access number to use for a connection from a client device to a data network. The method includes the steps of: receiving a request for a network access number; determining a set of available network access numbers; determining a ranking for each network access number in the set of available network access numbers; and selecting a network access number from the set of available network access numbers based on the ranking.